THE SPIRIT

245 Clinton Ave, Brooklyn, NY 11205

October, 2015 Vol VI, Ed I

Patti Smith: Brooklyn Voices

By Michelle Darris

On October 8th, many made their way to Clinton Hill on the chilly Thursday evening to see Patti Smith in the second installation of St. Joseph's College's Brooklyn Voices series. In her event that sold out quickly, Patti Smith discussed her newest novel, M Train. The enthused audience filled the auditorium in Tuohy hall and as the lights dimmed, the co-owner of Greenlight Bookstore welcomed famous musician and author, Patti Smith.

Greeted by the audience's excited applause, Patti Smith took the stage to introduce her new novel. She explained that for her, the title 'M Train' represents a mental or a mind train. She playfully warned the audience of her lack of schedule, joking that her comedic movie would be titled 'The Wedding Unplanner', and promised to take questions from the audience after reading aloud from her novel. 'M Train' is divided into "stations" rather than chapters and as Patti Smith read her selected passages, she was careful to avoid the stations that mention all three of her cats, one of which has passed. Her delivery was both rhythmic and steady, adding a certain flavor to her writing and alluding to a lifetime of expertise in the mastery of words. After reading from her novel - and at one point pausing to give a quick rant on how we were able to find water on Mars but still have yet to make a reliable channel changer - she invites questions from the audience.

Opening the floor, Patti Smith initiated an audience-based discussion which covered inquiries ranging from her favorite blockbuster movie to her life regrets. In the first question, an audience member mentions her prose and in response to whether or not her rhythm was intentional, Patti recalled poetry being a prominent part of her childhood. Her love of poetry evolved into her rock and roll lyrics of the 70s, and her innate meter is translated to her contemporary writings. Much of 'M Train' takes place in cafe-type settings so when asked if she prefers to write in public or in private, Patti reveals that although her preference for poetry is to write it in solitude, she enjoyed a particular booth in the back of her favorite cafe because it offered a semblance of seclusion while still being in the midst of action. Her novel alludes to many classic authors and artists, and Patti's response to what literary tradition means to her? "I don't know," she laughs. "I just love books."

Another audience member asked Patti Smith what her favorite blockbuster film is and after pausing for a moment to contemplate, she decided on Tim Burton's 'Alice in Wonderland'. In the movie, Alice mentions thinking of six impossible things before breakfast and when Patti knows that she has a rough day ahead of her, she thinks back in this for inspiration.

When prompted to reflect on her life, there is one thing that Patti would have done differently - she would have listened to her mother more. She feels a sense of guilt for always having been "off here, and off there" and said that if she could go back and redo things, she would have spent less time traveling and more time listening to her mother's stories. She also feels nostalgic for Brooklyn; although New York City is the greatest city in the world, she feels that the streets of Brooklyn have more meaning to her than the city. She started visiting her Brooklyn friends in 1965, and said that she can still envision her 17-year-old self walking these very same streets.

In regards to Patti Smith's advice for anyone and everyone, it is simple: "Work hard and work diligently," she said. Whether writing a poem, training for a marathon, or gardening, she believes that it is important to know beforehand that it will be hard, but that it will also be beautiful. A person must be willing to sacrifice and to work, but Patti trusts that the wonderful feeling of accomplishment will make it well worth it.

"How much time is left?" Patti Smith asked and before one of the coordinators of the event was able to respond, there was a voice from the audience: "Time enough for another passage!" She chuckled and agreed, saying mysteriously that she had "something else" planned after she was finished reading.

After reading one final passage from 'M Train', Patti Smith surprised the audience with a special performance of her hit songs. She welcomed her musical partner Lenny Kaye onstage, joking that he got a louder response from the audience than she. He began to strum his guitar and as the crowd fell silent, Patti Smith sang Dancing Barefoot. By the time she moved on to Because the Night, the audience, undoubtedly touched by sharing this intimate acoustic moment with Patti Smith, was singing along to the chorus.

Before concluding the second event of Brooklyn Voices with a book signing, Patti Smith took a moment to thank the audience. "Laughter is the best medicine," she said, happy to hear the audience's warm laughter throughout the night.

Patti Smith presents her new novel M Train in the Tuohy Hall auditorium at St. Joseph's Brooklyn campus

Ciao, Papa!

By Chris Malcaus

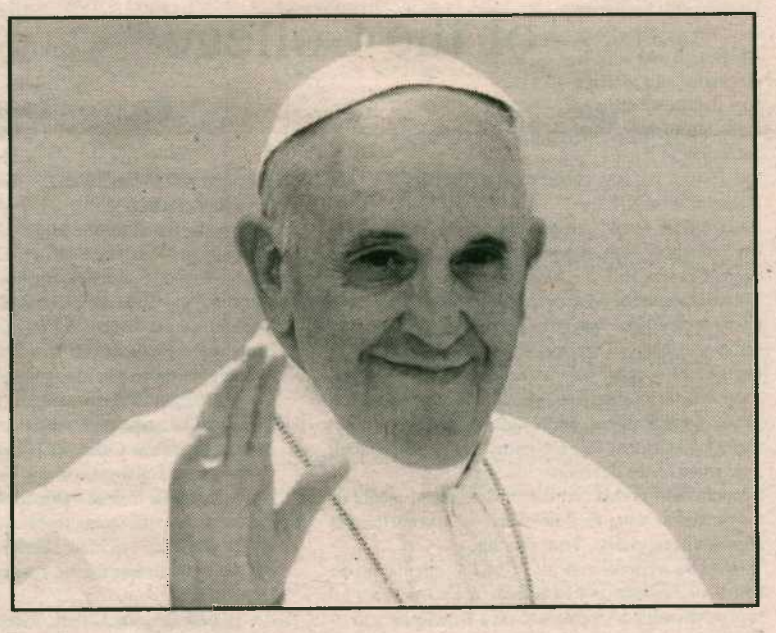
On September 26th, members of our community were blessed to witness Pope Francis' departure from Kennedy Airport as he ventured to Philadelphia, his last stop of his United States tour. Those members include Charles Byrd, Fergie Cantos, Julia Dineen, Jennifer Paguay, Dr. Karén Russo, Angela Sharma, Michael Zwosta, and me.

6:00 A.M.-- yes, that was when we all had to meet at St. Helen's Church in Howard Beach and it was all worth it. Unfortunately, we were bus-less for a short time since our bus was scheduled to pick us up later on. But, no need to worry! We had Dr. Russo find seats for us on a half-empty bus. As she said that morning: "The teacher is here, fill the buses up!"

Exhilarating, exciting, and encouraging. In retrospect, those are the three words to sum up that day. My exhilaration came from being within feet of Pope Francis' plane (an American Airlines 777!). Firstly, I adore planes, but apart from that it was a great honor to be a part of Pope Francis' historical visit. Excitement flowed from the sea of Pope Francis' fans as we proudly waved our yellow Vatican City flags and sang "We Are Family" to the Pope as he departed on his helicopter, later joking that the Pope did not come over to us because our singing had scared him away.

However, what was encouraging about the whole day was something that I thought of much later. Witnessing Pope Francis' humility first-hand as he carried his own luggage up the tarmac steps (and tripped over them) without seeking help could teach us all something: to carry on in life despite our struggles. Thank you Pope Francis for the hidden message!

Also, thank you Dr. Calareso, Sr. Susan Hudec, and Sherrie Van Arnam for this wonderful experience!



Pope Francis visits New York City on September 26, 2015

A Frank Discussion with SJC President Jack Calareso

By Michelle Darris & Alessandro Lanno

When he began his administration of St. Joseph's College on July 1, 2014, Dr. Jack Calareso followed Sister Elizabeth Hill as president of SJC. "My time here has been great," Dr. Calareso tells the SPIRIT. "St. Joseph's College is a great college with a great community. Through the unique experience of the college having two campuses, I have the pleasure of spending half of my time in Brooklyn and the other half in Long Island."

When asked to reflect on his first year as president, Dr. Calareso said he is proud of SJC's progress. "There have been many accomplishments," says Dr. Calareso. "The first that comes to mind is the process by which we identify problems and find solutions; we organized a plan for meetings in which students were able to voice their opinions. The community really came together to decide what can be done for the future of the College."

"Athletics are critical to the future of the College. This is a Division 3 school, but we are striving for a level of success in our Athletics Department: we want to raise the profile of our athletes, to add athletic programs, and to make sure that every program has a full roster." This, according to Dr. Calareso, is the new vision for the Athletics Department of SJC.

So how does Frank Carbone play a role in this all? On September 15th, in a mass email sent to SJC students, Shantey Hill, the Assistant Vice-President & Senior Director of Athletics, announced that Frank Carbone would no longer be serving as the Brooklyn campus' Athletics Director. In her email, Ms. Hill thanked the popular Coach Carbone for his 18 years of service to the college and wished him success in his future pursuits. Word spread quickly, and within days many students, alumni, and parents alike voiced their opposition to the decision.

Supporters of Frank Carbone took to social media in a movement to bring their beloved coach and Athletics Director back to SJC. With tags like "#BringBackFrank" and "#FPCisSJC" circulating on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram, the community of supporters rallied together to voice their loyalty to Frank Carbone. Through petition signings, small-scale protests, and countless letters sent to Dr. Calareso, these allies made it clear that not only did they want Carbone back, but they want answers as to why he was let go in the first place.

"I certainly understand," says Dr. Calareso, referring to the community's backlash. "I read every email about this and I read them carefully, and I see that this has impacted people's lives. I thought that I understood two weeks ago, but I understand it even more now. They've lost someone important."

Contrary to how the phrasing in Shantey Hill's email may have been interpreted by many, Dr. Calareso emphasizes that the decision to dismiss Frank Carbone was not a sudden one. "This was an assessment process," Dr. Calareso says. "We asked external people to look at Student Life on both campuses and a lot of action steps were taken. It was also recommended that we closely integrate the two Athletic Departments, and the decision was to oversee both departments. The job wasn't right for Frank at the moment; he wasn't the right person to lead the department into its future." Dr. Calareso did not go into the specifics of what ultimately led Frank Carbone to being let go because, "what he did wrong and what he didn't do is confidential."

"Athletics are critical to the future of the College."

However, Dr. Calareso recognizes the impact that Frank Carbone has had on the SJC community. "I am trying to arrange a meeting with Mr. Carbone in order to discuss other opportunities for him to continue to be a part of the SJC community," Dr. Calareso wrote in a follow-up email to the SPIRIT. "To date, this meeting has not taken place."

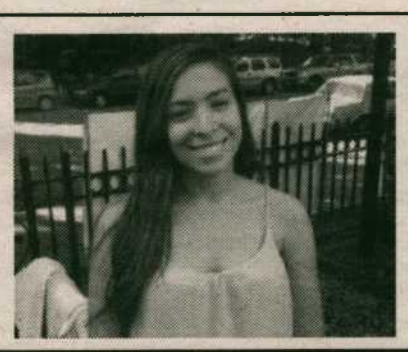
Past the layers of reform and the controversy that accompanies it lie the root of the change: enrollment issues. With SJC currently facing a lack of students enrolling, Dr. Calareso believes that the Athletics Department plays a crucial role in influencing students' decision to enroll. To encourage more students to take interest in SJC, Dr. Calareso wants to ensure that the "athletics are running in full."

"We want to make sure our Athletics Department is at its best," says Dr. Calareso. In regards to Frank Carbone, Dr. Calareso stresses that the dismissal in no way reflected a lack of value for Frank as a person, or for the wonderful things that he has done for SJC in his 18 years serving here. "Unfortunately, he was just not the right person for the future of our Athletics Department."

As the new Interim Athletic Director, Alex Winnicker will be leading the department for the time being. The search for a new Athletic Director will begin in the spring of 2016.

Word Around Campus: How do you feel about the recent changes with SJC?

"I think the new changes around campus look nice, I noticed that they redid the brick walkway in front of Tuohy. I also think the new SGA offices are really great because having that space can really help clubs stay organized."

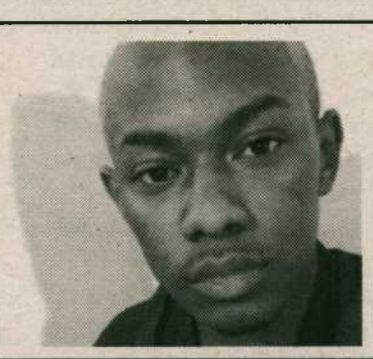


Caroline Rufin '18

"The Hill Center is a great investment because it gives students a place to work out and the opportunity to live a healthy life. It also serves as a great venue for a lot of events - like the investiture, for example."

Sean Salomons '19

"After attending the opening of the new SGA office, I noticed that the old gym is now a lounge. I find that to be very comforting to students, and I can see myself definitely being productive in there."



Sterling Beatty '18

Police and the Community

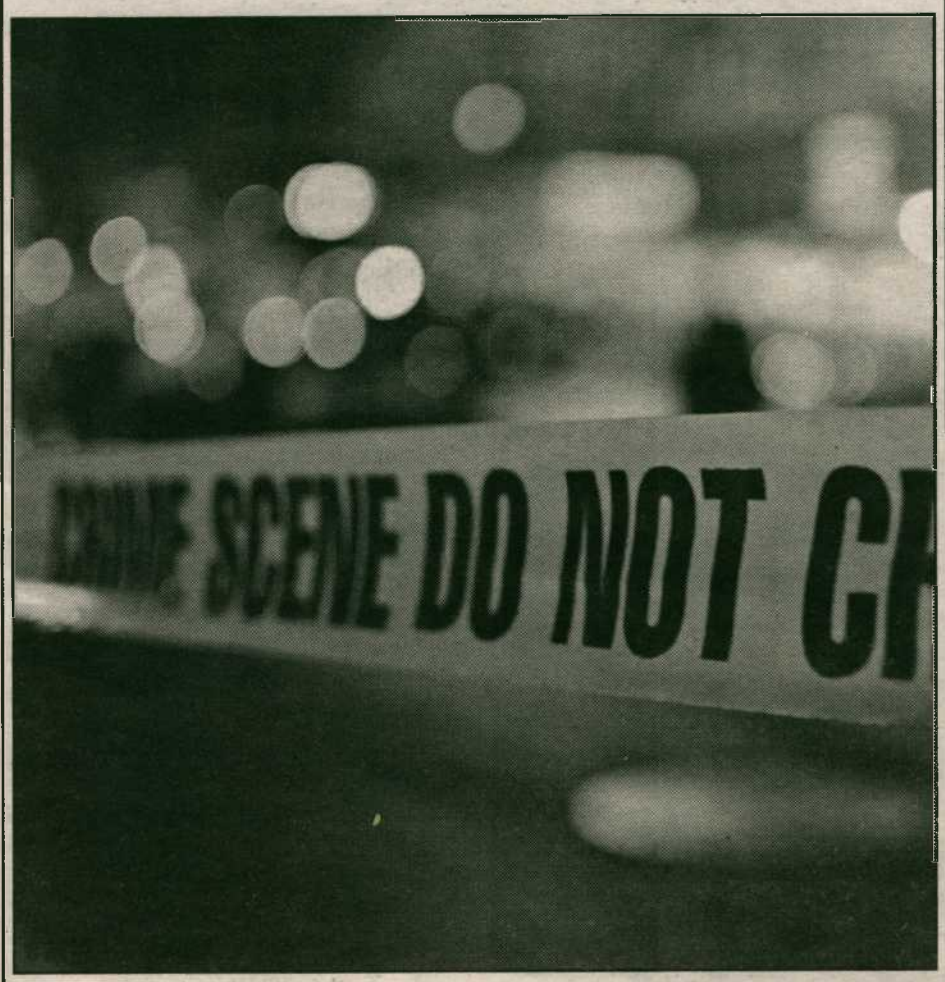
By Aaron Baker

From the deaths of Trayvon Martin, Eric Garner, and Michael Brown, to the implementation of the controversial stop-and-frisk policy in New York City, the decades-old tension between the people and those who swore to protect them has hit an all-time high. In just the past few years, there has been an exceptional amount of coverage and scrutiny regarding police and community relations, specifically in regards to African-American communities. So, how do we as a nation combat this problem and locate an effective and reasonable solution?

Firstly, to solve any problem one must look at its roots. One of the reasons for the tension is a sense of distrust, especially in African-American communities. For decades, a combination of police brutality, discrimination in arrests, traffic stops, and political policies has fostered anger and resentment on the part of citizens. On the other side, many officers are simply following orders and trainings as given to them by their higher-ups. But when combined with any unconscious biases or, as many officers attest to, psychological reactions such as fear, this can be cause for massive amounts of error. This then becomes a cycle of anger, resentment, and frustration, leading to the way things are currently perceived, creating no room for error for any party-civilian, officer, or politician.

This is the point where we look around and ask, "Well, how do we fix this? How do we move forward and formulate a system that can work for all parties involved? How can we make sure that everyone understands each other from this point on?"

And this is where we find the answer "in understanding. In any relationship, whether personal or professional, communication is paramount; when communication breaks down, so does the relationship. Last year, Gustavo Solis of DNAinfo wrote an article discussing the relationship between the 28th Precinct in Harlem and the local African community after the death of a Guinean student in 2012. In the article, he describes how organizing games of soccer between members of the precinct and members of the community has helped to repair the relationships, and how both parties feel that these games are beneficial. I understand that not everyone loves soccer, but you don't have to because that is not the point. The point is that there is an opportunity for dialogue and communal fellowship reminiscent of the old days when citizens and the police would greet each other when walking down the street, allowing the community to see the officers out of uniform and allowing the officers to share a laugh with the community. And while I know that there can be some hiccups with doing such things in larger communities and cities, there should be some attempt at dialogue: to meet, speak, and play alongside not only the leaders, but the actual community itself, bettering the relationships and the lives of all involved.



Criminal Television, Affecting More Than Just Entertainment

By Grace Chamoun

Let's create a scenario: a man is shot dead in the middle of a busy Brooklyn street. He is later found a few blocks away from the crime scene, a gun in his backpack and blood on his shirt. A group of eye-witnesses immediately identify the man as the shooter. Is this evidence considered to be beyond a reasonable doubt to incriminate the man? In traditional trends of history, this would have been more than enough evidence to link the suspect to the crime. However, with the increasing interest in crime based shows such as CSI: Crime Scene Investigation and Bones, jurors are shifting gears.

A new trend has emerged where jurors are no longer supporting convictions without DNA analysis. In a recent case they have even let a man who was identified by multiple eye witnesses as a shooter walk free, due to a lack of DNA evidence. This latest fad is being denoted as the CSI Syndrome, the CSI Infection, or most commonly, the CSI Effect. It essentially refers to the belief that jurors are holding a higher standard of actuality in order to support guilty convictions. They are demanding a significantly higher amount of forensic evidence from prosecution and are raising the bar for adequate standards of proof. As it has been found, jurors are holding circumstantial evidence to a much lower threshold than decades prior. What's the issue with this up-and-coming trend? Reality and television have their vast differences.

Although in a television show it may be easy for an acting detective to conveniently find and collect a perfect fingerprint or DNA sample, in reality, this luck is rarely as painless. DNA and fingerprint collection can be subject to inaccuracy depending on the competency of the equipment and the lab personnel, it loses accuracy in proportion to time, and it can be nearly impossible to collect in public places that are flooded with fingerprints. There have been many cases of false imprisonment due to fingerprint identification errors by expert examiners, such as the arrest of Oregon lawyer Brandon Mayfield in connection to the Madrid terrorist bombing, when the fingerprint on a suitcase in Spain's terrorist attack was found to be similar to his.

Three top-ranking FBI analysts made the same identification mistake when they linked Mayfield's fingerprint to this bombing. Following his false imprisonment, the Federal Bureau of Investigation was required to recant their long-standing belief that fingerprint identification was an exact science, yielding 100 percent certainty. Similarly, over the last 100 years there have been numerous cases in which convictions were reversed, following the establishment of faulty fingerprint identification.

The International Association of Identification (IAI) offers certification tests to people who are already working professionally within this field. Astonishingly, over half of the examiners who take the test end up failing it. Furthermore, there are virtually no crime laboratories in the United States that require a person to be certified prior to working, and no judge requires an examiner to be certified before testifying in court. For this reason, many believe that the issue is not the physical evidence, but rather, the expert doing the analysis. In the case of Rick Jackson, he was falsely imprisoned when two fingerprint analysts positively linked him to a bloody crime scene fingerprint. Although the prosecution had two analysts that confirmed this connection, the defense's two certified analysts rejected the identification, thus proving human fallibility.

Sources of DNA samples such as blood, semen, skin, saliva, or hair, are not excluded from imprecision, either. Although it is thought that human DNA can potentially hold a full genetic "blueprint," nearly 95 percent of DNA is still not understood. An interesting article published by the United Kingdom's WideShut Webcast: Alternative News and Views sheds light on a novel controversy. Dating back to the era of the Romans, criminal trials have been marked by the principle of "innocent until proven guilty." However, with the rising popularity of crime scene DNA analysis, this ancient standard is being reversed. With DNA collection, a suspect is essentially guilty until proven innocent.

Similar to the human errors provided in fingerprint identifications, this same fallibility can occur with DNA collections as well. For example: in 2012, a man named Adam Scott was positively matched to the DNA found in a rape victim 300 miles away in Manchester. Scott, who had never been to Manchester and who was incarcerated on other unrelated charges at the time of the incident, was in no way connected to this crime besides an unusual DNA match. How could this have happened? A private firm in England failed to properly dispose of a used plastic tray during part of the robotic DNA extraction process, thus contaminating their evidence and wrongfully incriminating an innocent man.

Despite the risk of human error being low in the specific areas of DNA collection, they do come with high costs. If a person is circumstantially and undeniably linked to a crime, is DNA analysis still needed to further validate their incrimination? Is it better to be safe than sorry? This relatively new phenomenon has gained international support since its first introduction into criminal investigation in 1986, and has actually resulted in the exoneration of 330 people within the United States (as of 09/03/2015). Of these 330 wrongfully-convicted people, the average length of time served was 14 years and their average age was 26.5 at the time of incarceration. 20 of the 330 were on death row, and 16 others were charged with capital crimes. Due to the high success rate of DNA within our criminal justice system, should it become a regular part of our procedures? Do the pros outweigh the cons?

Choosing the Chief: A Beginner's Guide

By Adriana DiBenedetto

The debates have started and the time has come to pretend we know what we're talking about when someone asks us about the presidential candidates. Wait; what do you mean that's not what we're supposed to do?

But really, don't. If you don't know anything about a candidate, you don't have to pretend you do; in fact, it's probably for the best if you don't. However, if you do know something about the people who could potentially be running (or ruining) the country, here are some tips:

The first is research. I know classes are tough, and we've got jobs, and thesis, and a million other things to do, and we need to somehow fit sleeping somewhere in there. But if you've got the time, looking up some of the basics for each candidate is a start.

Check out who's running, what party they belong to, what they've done in the past, and what actual plans they've laid out for the future. Take note of what rights they wish to give or take away from you. You can even make a hierarchy or list of the things that matter to you the most: education, marriage equality, jobs, abortion, gun control, and so on. Don't just take anyone else's word for gold; look absolutely everything up from reputable sources.

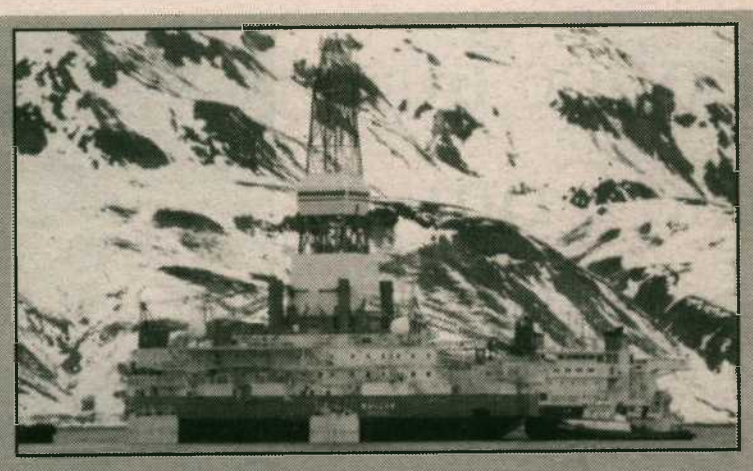
Take note of all the different personalities, views, and responses of those who not only speak about your favorite candidate, but of others as well. Examine the campaign: is it doing well? How is their money being raised, what kinds of people are donating, and for what reasons? It has been said on various different occasions by individuals such as Dan Quayle and Bill Clinton that the campaign usually reflects the presidency. If the campaign was executed well, and with dignity, then the presidency should also go relatively smooth, and the president will be a relatively dignified and respectable person.

Finally, observe how each candidate treats people who agree with them versus people who do not agree with them, and how they treat those in the opposing party, as well as their own.

If you truly do not want to go through the trouble of researching each candidate and what they believe in, there are various online resources and tests that you can take that will help narrow it down. The political quiz at isidewith.com, for instance, will tell you which candidates your beliefs most closely align with on various issues. It's set up like a spectrum, telling you which candidate has the most similarities to you, and it goes down the line for each, telling you which candidate has the absolute least in common with you.

Do not tell yourself that you are not going to vote because you do not feel a strong connection to any of the candidates; that's what might get us a less capable person elected in the end.

Shell Has Left the Arctic



By Alexandra Dos Santos

Today it's hard to tell what's really being done about climate change. It seems that every tiny step toward making the country more green is overshadowed by megacorporations placing profit over the health of the planet. And when there are too many of these corporations to count, it's best to take them on one at a time; it's the only way. When going up against oil giants such as Shell, to quote Naomi Klein's famous motto, "to change everything we need everyone."

The efforts of Greenpeace and other environmental organizations over the past 3 years have forced the Shell company to pull out of the arctic indefinitely. This area is in grave danger of collapse because of the impacts of offshore drilling: Alaska's temperature is rising twice as fast as the rest of the United States', its melting glaciers are contributing to rising sea levels worldwide, the risk of coastal erosion is growing exponentially, and the endangerment of Alaskan animal species is ever-present. Not only does the drilling throw off the entire planet's balance of climate (the arctic is known as the earth's 'air conditioning') but it also prolongs our dependence on dirty energy, also known as fossil fuels.

> It seems that every tiny step toward making the country more green is overshadowed by megacorporations placing profit over the health of the planet.

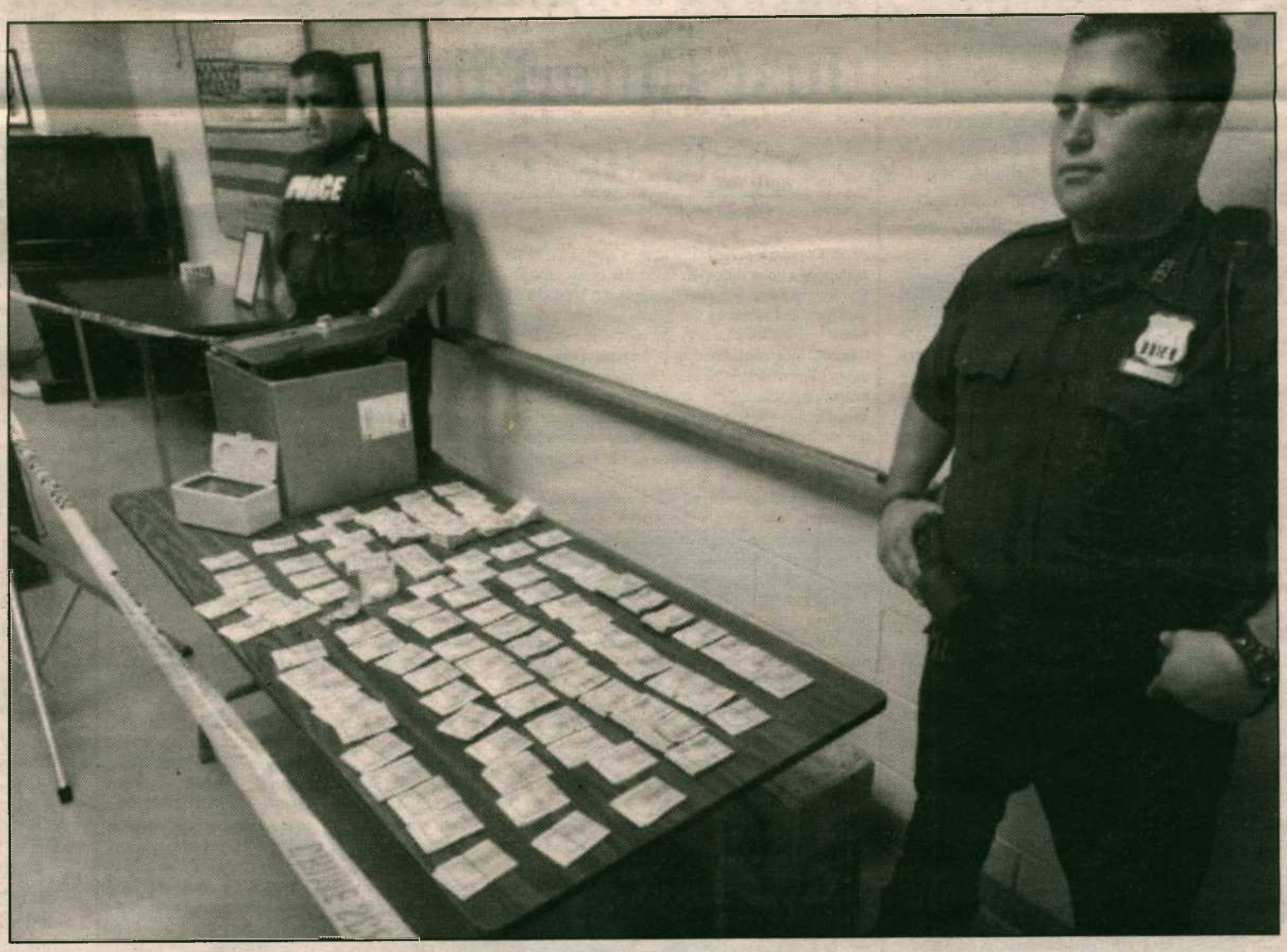
Shell's influence on the delicate ecosystem of the Alaskan Arctic was at the forefront of last year's massive climate change movement, the People's Climate Change March. Located in the streets of Midtown Manhattan, 400,000 people participated; this was the largest gathering of people in regards to environmental justice in history. And just about a year later, on September 28th, Shell announced its withdrawal. Although this is cause for celebration, the company could decide to continue drilling at any time because there are no laws against it. Even President Obama, after hearing from both the indigenous people of Alaska and Shell representatives, approved of the drilling. Environmentalists accuse the Obama administration of looking the other way and going back on its major promise to do anything in its power to slow down climate change. Despite the scientific research and track history of Shell's previous safety violations, the federal government gave the company the go-ahead.

Some activists are worried that Shell will be right back at the sites as soon as the attention dies down. This is why Greenpeace members are willing to campaign to keep the drills out permanently. They want to keep this momentum going; now that Shell's drills are out, environmental groups are hoping that President Obama will take advantage of this Arctic media frenzy and rule the American Arctic as off-limits to petroleum companies.

"We are campaigning for a protected sanctuary in international waters around the North Pole, and we hope that vision is one step closer after today," says Kumi Naidoo, Greenpeace's International Executive Director.

For now, the 9 billion dollars Shell spent in its drilling expeditions was overpowered by the 3 million voices worldwide that refused to fall to apathy.

Civil Forfeiture: The Legal Way to Steal



By Grace Chamoun

Over three decades ago, under President Ronald Reagan, the United States government declared its War on Drugs. Through this initiative, a principle known as civil asset forfeiture came to rise, allowing law enforcement to seize a person's property without charging them with a crime. Despite originating as an effort to confiscate suspected drug money or vehicles to hinder drug-dealing circles, civil forfeiture has escalated into a spiraling orb of governmental abuse, theft, and blatant injustice. Cops are now empowered to seize your cash, vehicles, real estate, bank accounts, firearms, and so on, all without a criminal conviction.

Following the tragedy of September 11, 2001, President George Bush created the Department of Homeland Security and launched the "War on Terror." He allocated a massive budget for this new bureaucracy and empowered all forms of state and local law enforcement to assist the federal government in detecting/detaining potentially suspicious individuals. This effort essentially lacerated the underlying intention of civil forfeiture by placing opportunity for police power on a silver platter. Through the work of the Washington Post's investigative journalists, the team was able to accumulate information from the Department of Justice, accentuating the alarming reality of this growing concern.

According to the Post's findings, just shy of 62,000 seizures have been made without warrants or indictments. Together, these 62,000 seizures have resulted in the collection of $2.5 billion, $1.7 billion of which was given back to the respective law enforcement agencies. It has been found that of the $134.2 million that the NYPD collected in seizures lacking arrest, $27 million was given back to New York's Finest. Los Angeles County Sheriffs received $24.3 million of the $126 million they collected. Los Angeles Police received $18.4 million of the $86.1 million they collected. Houston Police received $14.7 million of the $63.3 million they collected, among many other law enforcement agencies nationwide.

In 1985, the Justice Department's Asset Forfeiture Fund was recorded as $24 million for the year; in 2013, however, that number grew to over $2 billion. What is so tempting about taking people's cars and money? Well, in New York City, records show that forfeiture funds were spent on food, gifts, and entertainment. In Georgia, forfeiture funds were used to buy football tickets for the District Attorney's office and in Texas, this money was used to fund television ads for the District Attorney's re-election.

Creation of stop-and-seizure programs have been supported by the United States Congress and, over the past decade, have been implemented into modern day policing. Programs such as Desert Snow have worked with the Departments of Justice and Homeland Security to train tens of thousands of law enforcement officers on stop-and-seizure techniques, branding themselves and their work as "counter-terrorism efforts." Desert Snow, a family-owned company, has won millions in federal contracts to teach police officers "the art of roadside asset forfeiture." In the five years that Desert Snow was training these law enforcement officers, they were able to seize a total of $427 million. Desert Snow charges less than $600 to train these officers and although these numbers may come off as being proof of a "successful investment," most would disagree.

These Black Asphalt intelligence networks have seen 32% jumps since 2005; this is three times the rate of their police departments. With these officers getting more and more aggressive, the number of innocent people having their property taken away is rising. It has been noted that the majority of the people who are judicially challenging seizures in federal courts are Black, Hispanic, or members of other minority groups. People are being stopped and, sometimes, having their life savings taken away.

For example: Tan Nguyen was driving home after winning $50,000 at the casino. Despite having the receipt for his winnings, law enforcement still confiscated the money and threatened to tow Nguyen's vehicle if he told anyone what had happened. Nguyen hired an attorney and got his money back, but not until almost a year later. Another example of unjustifiable civil forfeiture was when Detroit police raided the Contemporary Art Institute of Detroit's monthly party. Although there wasn't physical cash to take from the invitees, law enforcement decided instead to impound 40 vehicles. Each car owner had to pay a $900 impound fee, which resulted in $35,000 more dollars in Detroit's pocket.

George Reby had $22,000 in cash taken from him in Monterey, Tennessee while he was on his way to buy a used car he had purchased through eBay. He provided the officers with proof of the active bids, but still failed in dissuading the officer. A family in Philadelphia had their home seized after their son was arrested for selling $40 worth of heroin, despite the parents having no knowledge of their son's activities. Keep in mind that Desert Snow was intended to stop terrorism. What any of these seizures have to do with terrorism is still unclear.

New Mexico has been the only state to abolish civil forfeiture after the government took $800,000 from an Albuquerque man's used car dealership. The adverse affect that the confiscation took on the man's health and business led New Mexico Governor Susana Martinez to outlaw the practice entirely. In Montana, state Governor Steve Bullock recently signed a law that requires a criminal conviction to be obtained prior to seizing a person's property through civil forfeiture. Although steps away from this practice are being taken in municipalities around the country, there still is not a clear answer as to when this abuse will come to end.